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## IN VACATION.

**The Mule Immortalized in Verse.**—In *Tally v. State*, 5 Ga. App. 480, the accused was convicted of cruelty to animals in beating to death a mule that was furnished him to plow corn. The evidence showed that the mule was in good condition and uninjured when turned over to the defendant to be plowed, but when found she bore evidence of having been recently severely beaten. Counsel for the accused, in expressing his indignation that his client should have been convicted, sums up his argument in the following verse:

“No matter how hot is the bottom,  
And the mule is beset by the flies,  
Let the negro at work in the cotton  
Never slap with the lines if he’s wise.  
Though the lines may be tight on the nigger  
And the contract enslaves, he’s a fool  
If he slaps and then thinks he’s bigger  
In the eyes of the law than the mule.”

Russell, J., said: “To this portion of the argument I would reply in perhaps no poorer poesy, and I think much better law:”

When the sun shines hot in the bottom  
And the mule is beset with the flies,  
The hand and the head which guide the poor beast  
Should be at once gentle and wise.  
The man who trusts his beast to a plow-hand—  
For negroes and whites, the law is the same—  
Is assured that the statutes and law of the land  
Forbid that his brute be tortured or maimed.

So where a mule’s in sole charge of a driver,  
He (no matter what color his skin)  
Must show, if that mule should be injured,  
That the hurt was not due to his sin.  
True, the law holds the driver far bigger  
Than a conscienceless mule to be,  
Yet the law should avenge with all vigor  
All drivers’ acts of wanton cruelty.